

The Basenji Club of NSW 54th Championship Show Critiques

Judge: Mrs Kay Eldred

The Basenji Club of NSW has always been a small but strong breed club composed of dedicated breeders. Both long time and short time people who feel strongly about the breed and actively strive to keep and improve upon those features which make our breed unique.

As a Life Member of the Club, I was honoured to be invited to judge this year's Championship Show which was finally conducted after many stops and starts. The Club's Committee are to be congratulated on achieving this outcome and their hard work in bringing the event to fruition. Even the weather cooperated by putting on a perfect showing day at Castle Hill Showground.

It was a thrill to see baby puppies in the ring after such a long period and I am sure everyone enjoyed the spectacle of seeing what the next generation around the rings are going to be for the future of the breed.

I have a few overall comments to make and will take my concerns first: The basenji is a hunting dog, first and last, so poor feet and pasterns are not a good look. There were many examples of this and also of lacking hard muscular condition. Good condition brings its own rewards in improving toplines and movement. There were also examples of wide-based ears set too wide on the skull. Tail sets and shelf need to be given serious consideration. However, that said, tail curls were, in the main, good. It is good to remember that the tail-sets and shelf are an integral part of the outline of the basenji.

I think front shoulders have improved immensely giving better balance and better toplines plus much improved movement. Eye colour and shape also are so much more pleasing and very few gave offence. The majority of skull to muzzle ratios were good with some exceptions and there were some narrow skulls. Wrinkle was most evident overall, albeit not always as fine as we would like.

My winners on the day were a delight and took my eye immediately on entering the ring in their respective classes. It was a difficult, but enjoyable decision to decide which one got the final nod. I wish them well in their future endeavours.

Class 1 Baby Puppy Dog

1. 11. Wazazi Happy Teddy Bear

Smart, neat Tri Dog with good balance and good angulation. Excellent head well carried with good wrinkle, well set ears. Firm topline, not too long, well ribbed back, excellent tail and set and gleaming coat. Moved well with his handler.

2. 3. Lomar Virtual Reality

Tri puppy, long of leg, good head and expression with well-set ears. Good topline and fine coat. Moved well.

3. 4. Unomee Tri of Afrika

Another smart tri puppy dog square and compact. Good fine bone and well shaped head but ears set a little wide. Good curl of tail. Set a little tighter. Good angulation. Moved well. Super coat.

4. 9. Barzoom Tuvok

Brindle dog, longer cast. long forearms, excellent head and expression good ears, good tail and set with an excellent shelf

5. 8. Barzoom Mission Control

A smaller younger type dog with excellent head and expression with good eye. Tail set could be tighter. Good hindquarters with short hocks. Well balanced.

Class 1A Baby Puppy Bitch

1. 17. Unomee Tri Afrika

Tri Bitch. Well balanced, good topline with good tail and set. Neat feet. Excellent head of correct proportions with dark eye and well set ears. Moved well with a sparkling coat.

2. 25. Kikongo Sassy Ohlala (AI)

Small, neat, square bitch. Good angulation good topline with well carried head showing good wrinkle and perfectly set ears. Good tail and set. Sadly, showing effect of a slight injury to a front leg when on the move.

3. 14. Teeeefoo Brandys Nile Queen

Slightly heavier bodied bitch showing good head and expression. Eyes well almond shaped. Tail set showing good shelf behind. Moved balanced.

4. 16. Unomee Tri Tra La

A lovely young lady. Good head and expression with ears a little wide set. Pleasing tail and tailset with a good topline. Moved well.

5. 13. Nayembe Sarabis Seka

A taller bitch. Excellent coat and colour. Correct head and expression. Correct tail and set and shelf. Would like to see a longer ribbing. Moved balanced.

Best Baby Puppy No. 11 Best Opposite Baby Puppy No. 17

Class 4 Junior Dog

1. 28. Ch Wuliango Dakota Rain Dance

Stunning young dog with all the hallmarks of the breed on display. Balance, topline, angulation, movement, head carriage and wrinkle, tail and set. Very hard to fault and shown in top condition.

2. 26. Nayembe Kyirries Indeko

Tall young dog with good length of leg. Slightly long in coupling and length of ribbing could be longer. Moved over lots of ground with ease. Excellent coat and well shaped head with good wrinkle.

3. 27. Karamo Midnight Mambo

Well balanced young dog with well shaped head and good wrinkle. Good angulation and moved well. Would like a tighter tail set.

Class 5 Intermediate Dog

1. 29. Eurabbie Bin Taharqa

Tri dog showing good fine bone, reach of neck, well set ears, plenty of wrinkle and a good dark and well shaped eye. Good balance and good feet with a nice fine coat of good colour and texture. Tail set could be a little tighter. Moved correctly with his handler.

Class 8 Limit Dog

1. 30. Nayembe Yaamas Midnight Kito

Tall Black/White dog with well shaped head, dark eye and very good ears. Good hindquarters, tail set could be a little tighter, good coat. Moved well

2. 31. Nonaym River Song Othe Congo

A 5-year-old dog. Balanced with what I call an "old head". Good wrinkle, well set small ears. Well set body with good shelf behind his tail-set. Good angulation. Moved well.

3. 32. Barzoom Picard of Borg

Brindle dog with good head and expression, well set ears but would like more wrinkle. Good hindquarters would prefer better set to tail. Excellent brindle coat and skin.

Class 9 State Bred Dog

1. 34. Wazazi Totally Tempting

Well put together and well balanced dog. Well balanced on the move with long forearms. Pleasing head and expression with good wrinkle. Good curl of tail and shelf. Altogether an attractive dog.

2. 33. Ch Nayembe Yaamas Jarrah

A taller dog on leg with elegance and a good neck. Pleasing head and expression. Rather upright in front shoulder and lacking angulation behind but excellent tail & set.

Class 10 Australian Bred Dog

1. 38. Ch Remwin Wrinkle In Time

Medium sized dog. Well put together. Pleasing head & expression with well hooded ears, good eye & wrinkle. Good hindquarters displaying shelf and well set tail & set. Moved with balance.

2. 39. Ch Eurabbie Zeus

Balanced dog with good topline. Pleasing shaped head with well placed ears, lacking some wrinkle and coat texture could be finer. Tail set could be tighter.

3. 36. Karamo Chucho

Good balance and fine bone. Good topline. Correct head and expression. Good shelf. Pasterns could be stronger.

Class 11 Open Dog

1. 42. Ch Xalmes Dont Bleveme Just Watch

Young dog high on leg with fine bone. Good topline and tail-set. Well shaped head and well set ears. Eye could be a little darker. Well balanced with good angulation. Moved well.

2. 43. Kikongo Red Pyramid of Power (AI)

Well balanced compact dog of fine bone. Well set ears and correct expression. Good topline, tail set and shelf, coat and skin. Soft on the pasterns.

3. 45. Ch Wazazi Playing With Fire

Tri dog with well shaped head, dark eyes, good ear set, good topline. Balanced on the move. Good coat. Tail-set could be tighter.

Veteran Dog 7 years and over

1. 48. Ch Lomar Dressed To Impress

Very compact Tri dog. Very sound, moved superbly and with purpose. Excellent head and expression showing good wrinkle for 7-year-old. Good tail and set.

2. 47. Gd Ch Nonaym Sound Of The Congo

9-year-old with good fine bone. Pleasing head shape and well pricked ears. Good angulation with excellent coat. Tail set could be a little tighter.

Challenge Dog No. 28 Reserve Challenge Dog No. 38

Class 4A Junior Bitch

1. 50. Ch Remwin Bewitched

Delightful little bitch. Fine-boned. Sound, elegant & well balanced. Excellent head proportions with well set ears, good wrinkle and dark correct eye. Well set tail & set. Moved lightly with her handler. In excellent coat and condition.

2. 51. Jillayla The Path Of She (Imp NZ)

Slightly longer than first placed, fine bone, excellent head and expression with well placed ears and dark eye. Good length of neck and good topline. Excellent balance and moved well. Coat of correct length & colour

3. 49. Karamo Stellaby Starlight

Tri colour. elegant little bitch with good length of neck. Strong topline. Good head with excellent wrinkle and well set ears. Could have moved better with a tighter tail-set.

Class 5A Intermediate Bitch

1. 52. Nayembe Sarabis Lisolo

Compact little bitch showing a good balance, fine bone, topline and good outline with shelf. Good tail & set. Pleasing head & expression with well set ears. Moved well with her handler.

2. 55. Ch Wuliango Vivien Enchantress (AI)

Well balanced though slightly longer cast than winner, good topline set off with a good shelf, moved well with pleasing head carried well on neck of good length.

3. 54. Teeeefoo Dots Tigeress

A longer cast bitch with an interesting head. Skull of good proportions but narrow muzzle. Ears well set with excellent wrinkle. Slightly long in body with average tail-set and curl. Good hindquarters, coat & colour.

Class 8A Limit Bitch

1. 57. Kitoko Walk On The Wild Side

Fine, elegant, well balanced bitch with very pleasing head and expression. Well set ears, well curled tail with shelf. Good topline well held on the move. Fine coat & wrinkle

2. 61. Jillayla Little Timaru Tiki (Imp NZ)

Fine brindle bitch. Slightly longer cast but strong topline. Good head and expression with well-set ears. Well balanced on the move. A tighter tail-set would have improved outline. Overall nice bitch.

3. 59. Teeeefoo Hunnys Solid Gold

Slightly heavier bitch a little long in coupling but with head of correct shape. Ears well-set and dark eye. Fine bone, good coat and moved correctly.

Class 9A State Bred Bitch

1. 66. Ch Bayenzi Cindy Tells Me

Fine boned compact and well put together bitch with very typical head showing lots of wrinkle & expression. Balanced on the move with good head carriage. Coat of good texture and colour.

2. 64. Remwin Bedazzled

Fine-boned elegant little bitch with very pleasing head and expression could have used her ears a little more. Sound and well balanced on the move. Coat & colour in good order.

3. 62. Ch Nayembe Safiyas Sarabi

Well balanced fine boned elegant bitch carrying a touch more weight than preferred. Lovely head and expression, strong topline, tail & set. Coat of excellent texture & colour. Moved well.

Class 10A Australian Bred Bitch

1. 71. Ch Remwin Nevergonnabreakmystride

Tri bitch. Fine bone, balance, compact with strong topline well held on the move. Well shaped head with good ear set, dark eye and wrinkle. Good outline with shelf.

2. 70. Kikongo Red Minx Of The Sphinx (AI)

Compact, well balanced with fine bone. Head showed wrinkle and dark eyes, well set ears. Well set tail with single curl and good shelf. Fine coat of texture and colour.

3. 68. Karamo Bossa Nova

Balanced bitch with pleasing head and expression. Moved well. Single curl to tail could be tighter. Coat of good colour and texture.

Class 11A Open Bitch

1. 79. Ch Wuliango Tenzin Tibetan Child

Small, fine-boned, elegant balanced bitch who moved very well. Well shaped head showing wrinkle when using her ears. Coat and skin of correct texture. Would like to see tighter feet.

2. 78. Ch Remwin Itsallaboutme

Black & White bitch. Well balanced and well put together. Nicely shaped skull, dark eye and well shaped ears. Angulation provided correct movement. Excellent fine coat & skin.

3. 77. Ch Bayenzi Deepest Darkest Afrika

Fine bone, elegant tri-colour. Well balanced on the move with a correct topline followed by a well curled tail with correct set and a good shelf. Excellent coat in top condition.

Class 12A Veteran Bitch 7 years and Over

1. 80. Ch Eurabbie Scarletrose

9-year old fine-boned bitch with the finest wrinkle on the day. Strong topline, good angulation and balance. Correct head proportions. Fine skin and fine coat.

2. 81. Ch Lomar As Good As Gold

Great topline who powered around the ring. Great head proportions with dark eyes and well placed ears. Single curled tail with great set.

Challenge Bitch No. 50

Reserve Challenge Bitch No. 51

Best In Show No. 50

Runner-up No. 28

Class 18 Neuter Dog

1. 83. Ch Xalmes Man Of Colours (AI)

6-year-old dog with a great topline, very good feet and good muscle tone which have been lacking today. Moved like a steam train around the ring.

2. 84. Dual Ch (LC) Wazazi Diamonds Will Do It

12-year-old dog who has a lovely head and super wrinkle for his age. Tall elegant dog with an excellent topline, tail and feet. Good condition, great coat and skin. Moved well.

3. 82. Karamo Black Orpheus

A brindle dog who really does want to be here. Beautiful brindle coat and skin. Lovely length of leg with fine bone and a fine balanced head with very well set high ears and good wrinkle.

Class 18A Neuter Bitch

1. 87. Neut. Ch Tamard Thundabird

10-year-old bitch with fine coat, skin and fine wrinkle on a well shaped head. Moved well with balance and a good topline. Correct tail, curl, and set with good shelf.

Best Neuter: No. 83

Runner-up: No. 84